THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The S.M. Service enables the members of public to find out the current status of their stolen vehicles and issuance of passports. The service has evoked an encouraging response from the public.

(b) and (c) As "police" and "law and order" are State subjects, it is essentially for the State Governments concerned to take appropriate decision in the matter.

Paramilitary personnel joining militant organisations

3253. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases involving paramilitary personnel deserting their force and joining militants have come to notice;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected and involved persons arrested during the last one year; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) In CRPF, Constable Mohd. Ashraf Shah while overstaying on his leave *w.e.f.* 26.10.2001, was arrested by Rastriya Rifles on 24.12.2001 with a wireless set, reportedly given to him by the militants. He was handed over to the Police on 28.12.2001. Two other CRPF Constables Azhar Hussain Khan and Khurshid Ganai, were dismissed from service *w.e.f.* 2.1.2002 for desertion of the Force. Subsequently, Khurshid Ahmad Ganai reported to have been killed in an encounter with the Security Forces and there are inputs that Azhar Hussain Khan has links with the militants.

Hike in the centre's contribution for modernisation of police in States

3254. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has hiked its contribution for police modernization in the States;

(b) if so, what was the amount of contribution of the Centre during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether States have utilized this amount; and

(d) the States which have used it properly and the States which have not used it properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The allocation for the Central Government's share under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces was increased from Rs. 50 to Rs. 72 crores during 1999-2000 and was further enhanced to Rs. 1000 crores per annum from 2000-2001 onwards. The release on account of the Central share during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-02 was Rs. 72 crores, Rs. 1000 crores and Rs. 1000 crores respectively. Utilisation reports have been received from the States for Rs. 72 crores against the releases made in 1999-2000 and Rs. 507.08 crores against the releases made in 2000-2001. Utilisation reports have not been received for the releases made in the year 2001-2002. No instances of improper use of central funds have come to notice.

Infiltration of Bangladeshis posing as pilgrims

3255. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned 'Posing as pilgrims, Bangladeshis sneak into India' which appeared in The Hindustan Times on 11th March, 2002;

(b) whether it is true that a large number of Bangladeshis sneak in West Garo Hills districts of Meghalaya and Assam as pilgrims though the area is well protected by the BSF jawans; and

(c) if so, what vigorous steps are being taken by Government to check infiltration of Bangladeshis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a Dargah known as Hajrat Peer Shah Kamal Fakir situated about 150-200 yards from the Indo-Bangladesh border under Police Station Mahenderganj, district West Garo Hills of Meghalaya. Earlier, devotees from Bangladesh used to visit the Dargah to offer prayers on April 28 every year. However, no visit by Bangladeshi nationals has been permitted for the past several years. Besides a tight vigil to check possible infiltration through this stretch of the border, Government have taken several steps to prevent infiltration by Bangladeshi nationals. These include, *inter-alia*, construction of border roads, border fencing, raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps